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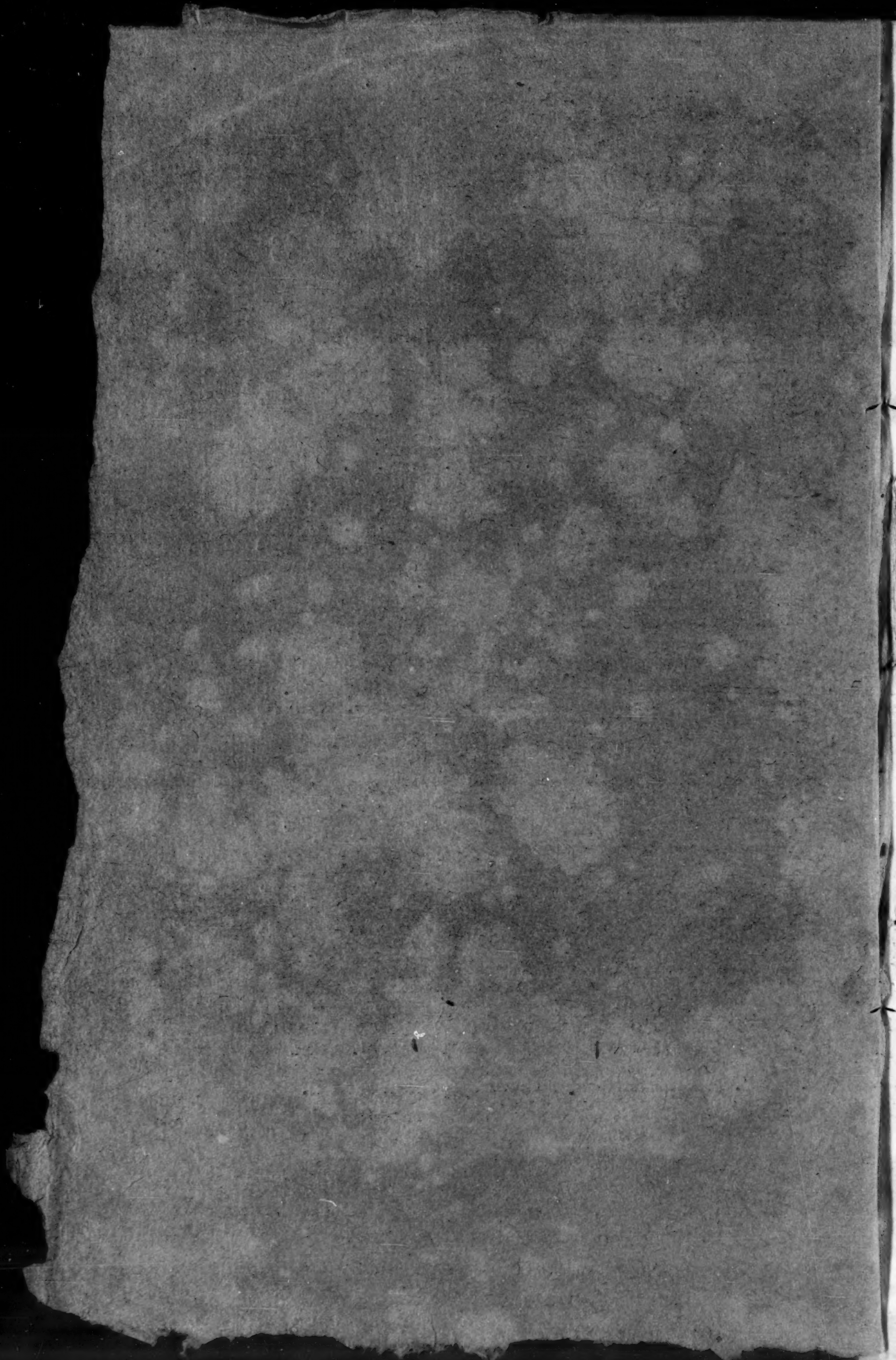
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COLLECTIONS,
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SEPTEMBER, 1824.

BIOGRAPHY.

LIFE OF COL. BENJAMIN CHURCH.

[From his History of King Philip's War.]

Col. BENJAMIN CHURCH was born in 1639, at Duxbury, near Plymouth, of respectable parents, who lived and died there. His father's name was Joseph, who, with two of his brethren, came early into New-England, as refugees from the religious oppressions of the parent state. Mr. Joseph Church, among other children, had three sons, Joseph, Caleb and Benjamin. Caleb settled at Watertown, the other two at Seconet, or Little Compton. Benjamin, the hero of this history, was of a good stature, his body well proportioned, and built for hardiness and activity. Although he was very corpulent and heavy in the latter part of his life, yet when he was a young man he was not so, being then active, sprightly and vigorous. He carried dignity in his countenance, and possessing a rational and manly judgment, joined with a nature really generous, obliging and hospitable disposition, he rose to both authority and esteem.—He married Mrs. Alice Southworth, by whom he had one daughter, and several sons, viz :

1. Thomas Church, the author or publisher of his history, and father of the honorable Thomas Church, Esq. an inhabitant of Little Compton.

2. Constant Church, a captain under his father in the Eastern expedition in the militia ; and of a military and enterprising spirit.

3. Benjamin Church, who died a bachelor.

4. Edward Church, who was a man of integrity, justice, and uprightness, of piety and serious religion.

He was a member of the Church of Bristol at its foundation, in the Rev. Mr. Lee's day. He was constant and devout in family worship, wherein he read and often expounded the scriptures to his household. He was exemplary in

observing the sabbath, and in attending the worship and ordinances of God in the sanctuary. He lived regularly, and left an example worthy of the imitation of his posterity.— He was a friend to the civil and religious liberties of his country, and greatly rejoiced in the revolution.* He was Colonel of the Militia in the county of Bristol.

The several offices of civil and military trust, with which he was invested from time to time, through a long life, he discharged with fidelity and usefulness. The war of 1675 was the most important Indian War that New-England ever saw. Philip, or Metacomet, a son of good old Massasoit, and his 2d successor had wrought up the Indians of all the tribes through New-England, into a dangerous combination to extirpate the English. It was one of the last works of the Commissioners of the United Colonies (a council in which subsisted the security of New-England, from 1643 to 1678) to break up this confederacy. An army of one thousand English was on foot at once, under the command of Governor Winslow. Whoever desires further information concerning this war, may consult Mr. Hubbard's history of it.— The part Col. Church acted in it, is exhibited in the plain narrative, given by his son two years before his father's death.

Col. Church perfectly understood the manner of the Indians in fighting, and was thoroughly acquainted with their haunts, swamps, and places of refuge on the territory between Narraganset and Cape Cod. There he was particularly successful. On that field he gathered his laurels. The surprisal and seizure of Annawun was an act of true boldness and heroism. Had the Eastern Indians been surrounded with English settlements, there is reason to think that he would have been more successful among them. But on a long and extended frontier, open to immense deserts, little more has ever been done by troops of undoubted courage, than to arouse and drive off the Indians into a wide howling wilderness; where it was as much in vain to seek them, as for Cæsar to seek the Gauls in the Hercinian forests.

After Philip's war, Col. Church settled and lived first at Bristol, then at Fall-River, lastly at Seconet, in each of which places he acquired and left a large estate. Having served his generation faithfully, by the will of God he fell asleep and was gathered to his fathers. He died and was buried at Little-Compton. The morning before his death,

[*The Revolution in the time of Sir Edmund Andross.]

he went about two miles on horse back, to visit his only sister, Mrs. Irish, to sympathise with her on the death of her only child. After a friendly and pious visit, in a moving and affecting manner he took his leave of her, and said, "It was a last farewell; telling her he was persuaded he should never see her any more; but hoped to meet her in heaven."

Returning homeward, he had not rode a half a mile before his horse stumbled, and threw him over his head. And the Colonel being exceeding fat and heavy, fell with such force, that a blood vessel was broken, and the blood gushed out of his mouth like a torrent. His wife was soon brought to him; he tried, but was unable to speak to her, and died in about twelve hours. He was carried to the grave with great funeral pomp, and was buried under arms, and with military honours. On his tombstone is this inscription.

Here lieth interred the Body
of the Honourable
COL. BENJAMIN CHURCH, Esq.
Who departed this Life,
January the 17th, 1717-18,
In the 78th Year of his Age.

In addition to the preceding sketch of Col. Church, we select the following notices from President Allen's Biographical Dictionary.

In the year 1676, when in pursuit of king Philip, he was engaged with the Indians in a swamp. With two men by his side, who were his guard, he met three of the enemy. Each of his men took a prisoner, but the other Indian, who was a stout fellow with his two locks tied up with red, and a great rattle snake's skin hanging from his hair behind, ran into the swamp. Church pursued, and as he approached him presented his gun, but it missed fire. The Indian being equally unsuccessful in his attempt to discharge his gun, turned himself to continue his flight; but his foot was caught in a small grape vine and he fell on his face. Church instantly struck him with the muzzle of his gun and dispatched him. Looking about, he saw another Indian rushing towards him with inexpressible fury; but the fire of his guards preserved him from the danger. After the skirmish his party found they had killed and taken one hundred and seventy three men.—At night they drove their prisoners into Bridgewater pound, where, having a plenty of provisions, they passed a merry night. Colonel Church commanded the party, which killed Philip in August, 1676. When it was known, that the savage

monarch was shot, the whole company gave three loud huzzas. Church ordered him to be beheaded and quartered, and gave one of his hands to the friendly Indian who shot him. The government at Plymouth paid thirty shillings a head for the enemies killed or taken, and Philip's head went at the same price.



Notices of several of the principal officers of the Revolutionary Army.

There are few, I presume, that hear of the achievements of distinguished men, without forming some idea of their persons and features, and it is pleasing to know whether the reality answers to the idea. I have therefore made some inquiry respecting the persons of the most active officers of the American army, engaged in those operations which it has been a part of our task to describe, and as I believe that you are not incurious upon this subject, I will, without hesitation communicate what I have learned.

Washington has already been described so often, that his whole appearance must be familiar with your fancy. I cannot however pass by so imposing a figure, entirely unnoticed. With a person six feet two inches in stature, expanded, muscular, of elegant proportions, and unusually graceful in all its movements—his head moulded somewhat on the model of the Grecian antique ;—features sufficiently prominent for strength or comeliness—a Roman nose and large blue eyes, deeply thoughtful, rather than lively—with these attributes, the appearance of Washington was striking and august.—Of a fine complexion, he was accounted, when young, one of the handsomest of men. But his majesty consisted in the expression of his countenance, much more than in his comely features, his lofty person, or his dignified deportment. It was the emanation of his great spirit through the tenement it occupied.

Major General Green in person was rather corpulent, and above the common size.—His complexion was fair and florid—his countenance serene and mild, indicating a goodness which seemed to shade and soften the fire and greatness of its expression. His health was delicate, but preserved by temperance and regularity.

Gen. Sullivan was a man of short stature, well formed and active—his complexion dark—his nose prominent—his eyes black and piercing, and his face altogether agreeable and well formed.

The Lord Sterling was short and thick set—somewhat puffy and corpulent. His face was red, and looked as though colored by brandy, rather than sun burnt, and his appearance in no manner either military or commanding.

Gen. Maxwell was about the common size, without any thing peculiar either in the features or expression of his face.—He was a man of merit, though of obscure origin. His manners were not conciliatory, and it was his misfortune to be often at variance with his officers.

Gen. Wayne was about the middle size, with a fine ruddy countenance, commanding port, with eagle eye. His looks corresponding well with his character, indicating a soul noble, ardent, and daring. At this time he was about 32 years of age, a period of life which perhaps as much as any other, blends the grace of youth with the majesty of manhood. In his intercourse with his officers and men, he was affable and agreeable, and had the art of communicating to their bosoms, the gallant and chivalrous spirit which glowed in his own.

The Marquis de la Fayette was one of the finest looking men in the army, notwithstanding his deep red hair, which then, as now, was rather in disrepute. His forehead was fine though receding—his eye clear hazel—his mouth and chin delicately formed, and exhibiting beauty rather than strength. The expression of his countenance was strongly indicative of the generous and gallant spirit which animated him, mingling with something of the pride of conscious manliness. His mien was noble—his manners frank and amiable, and his movements light and graceful. He wore his hair plain, and never complied so far with the fashion of the times as to powder.

Col. Morgan was stout and active—six feet in height—not too much encumbered with flesh, and exactly fitted for the toils and pomp of war. The features of his face were strong and manly, and his brow thoughtful. His manners plain and decorous, neither insinuating nor repulsive. His conversation grave, sententious and considerate, unadorned and uncaptivating.

Col. Hamilton is thus described by Mr. Delaplaine :—
“ Although in person below the middle stature, and somewhat deficient in elegance of figure, Hamilton possessed a very striking and manly appearance. By a most superficial observer he could never be regarded as a common individual. His head which was large was formed on the finest model, resembling somewhat the Grecian antique. His fore-

head was spacious and elevated—his nose projecting but inclining to the aqueline—his eyes grey—keen at all times, and when animated by debate intolerably piercing—and his mouth and chin well proportioned and handsome.—These two latter, although his strongest, were his most pleasing features—yet the form of his mouth was expressive of eloquence more especially of persuasion. He was remarkable for a deep depression between his nose and his forehead, and a contraction of his brows, which gave to the upper part of his countenance, an air of sternness. The lower part was an emblem of mildness and benignity.”

Major Lee, one of the most vigilant and active partizan officers in the American army, was short in stature, and of slight make—but agile and active. His face was small and freckled—his look eager and sprightly. He was then quite young, and his appearance was even more youthful than his years.—*Village Record.*



COL. DAVID WEBSTER

[In the July number of these Collections, we noticed the death of this gentleman; and are gratified in being able to present the following particulars of his life, which we find in the New-Hampshire Patriot.]

Col. DAVID WEBSTER was the son of Elder Stephen Webster of Chester, N. H., and was born in Chester, Dec. 10, 1738. Although the son of worthy and intelligent parents, his early advantages for education were poor, his erudition limited. His person was of the middling stature and rather handsome, his constitution robust, limbs muscular, and his taste was rather for the chase and athletic exercises than for the pursuits of literature. He was trained to the art of shoemaking, and his pastimes were running, wrestling, jumping, dancing, &c.

When Majors Rogers and Stark selected their men from the militia for the Ranging service, as it was called, Webster was their first choice in Chester; he was attached to the company commanded by Capt. Hazen, and was in active service in the years 1757 and 1760. He excelled his comrades in feats of activity and muscular strength, which rendered him popular among them; and his general deportment was such as to gain the confidence of his officers. When he joined his company, Webster resolved to war

against the "flesh, the devil" and the enemies of his country, and he accordingly avoided gambling, drinking, and other too prevalent vices. He was honored with a sergeant's warrant in the campaign of 1757, on which occasion he was more elated, or according to his own expression, "*he felt better and was prouder*" than on any other occasion of the like nature during his life. This was the commencement of his promotion, and the honor of this station was almost too much for him to bear with tolerable decency. In 1760, he went with Rogers and Stark from Ticonderoga, in pursuit of the French and Indians, to Crown Point, the Isle-aux-Noix, and Chamblee to Montreal. He then commanded one of the advanced guards, and at several times helped dislodge parties of the enemy in ambush. On one occasion the Indians so effectually concealed themselves, that a large body of them were between the advance and the main body, at which time the whole of the talents of Stark were necessary to extricate the party from their perilous situation. Webster always gave Stark the credit for success on that occasion, and always after considered him a more able commander and better officer than Rogers. The latter was brave, and would lead rashly forward, whilst the former was cool, and made proper arrangements for retreat if necessary. Webster commanded a party of observation at the Isle-aux-Noix the night before it was abandoned; he came in the night to the fort, and many times since he has described the horrors of this night, as far surpassing any thing with which he was acquainted. The bombs were flying from our batteries; the women and children in the fort were crying; the French swearing; the dogs and Indians howling; all, combined with the peril of his own situation, made a lasting impression on his mind. At Chamblee he was in the last skirmish of the war, and was at Montreal when and where the forces of Gen. Amherst, Sir William Johnson, &c. concentrated, and when all Canada finally surrendered to the forces of his Britannic Majesty. Webster returned from the army to Chester, where he married, April 20, 1761. Nov. 9, 1763, he moved from Chester to Hollis. Under the patronage of Samuel Cummings, Esq. his brother-in-law, and one of the original proprietors of Plymouth, he visited the new settlements there, pitched his tent on a lot drawn to the original right of his patron, at the confluence of Baker's and Pemigewasset rivers. He cleared some land, built a house, and made the necessary arrangements for moving. At this time there were but few families, and but few camps in Ply-

mouth. In the autumn of 1764, he drove the first ox team to Plymouth, and was laden with provisions and household furniture. His wife, with a child in her arms, accompanied him on horseback; the roads were poor, and the passage of some of the streams, particularly Smith's river in New-Chester, difficult. Near the end of the journey, Mrs. W. under the escort of a pilot, set forward to gain Brown's Camp at the lower interval in Plymouth, but did not arrive till evening. The first view of the torch light was transporting to her, and she never afterwards mentioned the incident without tears. Mr. Webster with his team, arrived the day following, and they began *to keep house* in Plymouth, Nov. 17, 1764, under more favorable circumstances than generally fell to the lot of their neighbors. Mr. W. drove the five first ox teams to Plymouth, which was the occasion of much conversation at the time, as a part of their road was on the beach and in the current of the river. He was generally the leader of the parties for hunting and fishing, from both which sources the first settlers drew a large supply of provisions. At one time he had on hand fifteen barrels of moose meat, besides salmon, which the river furnished plentifully at the proper season. He was on committees for erecting mills, making and laying out roads, and various other business connected with the division and settlement of the lands of the town.

In 1771, the Province of New-Hampshire was divided into five counties; but the inhabitants of Strafford and Grafton transacted their business at Rockingham for a season. When Grafton became organized, Col. Wm. Simpson was appointed High Sheriff, and Col. Webster was his deputy and jailer, and so continued till law was suspended at the commencement of the Revolution. Afterwards, when legal proceedings were restored and the counties were re-organized, Col. Webster was made Sheriff of Grafton, which office he held until he became seventy years of age. His commission ran, during good behaviour. The constitution afterwards adopted, disqualified any person from holding the office after he became seventy. Many distinguished persons, however, considered it questionable whether in law Col. Webster ceased to be sheriff, when he became seventy. Very early, Col. Webster became an Ensign in the military company in Plymouth, and gradually rose to the command of the regiment.

June 17, 1775, the sound of the battle at Breed's Hill was distinctly heard at Plymouth by lying the ear to the ground.

Col. Webster ordered the long roll to be beaten, collected the hardy emigrants, and held a council, which resulted in a determination to ascertain the place and particulars of the battle, and to take part if necessary. He went forward until he gained intelligence, which, although contradictory, caused the return of his men, but himself went to the field and saw and heard, and was enabled to make satisfactory report on his return to his comrades. He was the ardent, sincere, and continued friend of the first Hon. Judge Livermore, the father of Holderness, who was said to govern the inhabitants of that town with a nod, and preserve respect. He was also one of the leading men of the whig party in Plymouth. His was the only public house, and the place where resorted the whigs, tories, and those of doubtful minds. Here were politics discussed, victories celebrated, adversity mourned—men of different parties and from different towns were frequently together, and they scarcely ever met without a battle. It required, therefore, no small share of firmness and good sense on the part of the landlord to avoid personal collision, and maintain his reputation and principles, and the confidence of all parties; but so was the fact.

The defeat and capture of Burgoyne and his army, may be considered one of the most important events in the Revolution. In 1777, he came from the north with a powerful army, accompanied with a train of savages, and marched without opposition from Crown Point to Ticonderoga. This was considered by the Americans an important post, and manned with about three thousand troops, well provided, under the command of Gen. St. Clair. That this place should be abandoned by St. Clair and his forces, without the least opposition, cast a gloom through the country not easily described. Burgoyne was disposed to cause the alarm to spread as far as possible. Gen. Schuyler called for militia and regular troops, to oppose and harass the British in their course. Gen. Arnold and Col. Morgan of the regulars, joined Schuyler; and Gen. Lincoln with a body of militia, came to his assistance. The New-Hampshire levies, under the command of the brave Stark, on the 16th of July, encountered and conquered an important detachment of the veteran enemy at Bennington, which demonstrated what could be done when freemen did their duty. The effects of Stark's victory can hardly be imagined; like electricity the news pervaded the country, and served to dispel the clouds and darkness, and shades which hovered over it, in consequence of the precipitate abandonment of the fort at Ticonderoga.

Soon after, Gen. Gates took the command of the American Northern forces, and reduced to system opposition to the invading troops. He was reinforced by regulars and militia. The militia from New-England detached by Gen. Lincoln early in September, surprized and took the British out-works at Ticonderoga, together with their water-craft, arms, ammunition, &c. and many prisoners. Soon afterwards was fought a spirited, sanguinary, obstinate and protracted battle in the neighborhood of Bemis' Heights, in which both parties claimed the victory. On the 7th of October, was another severe and bloody battle, which was terminated by the night. The Americans lay on their arms. Burgoyne drew his men into camp on the heights. The victory of the Americans was complete. Gen. Gates detached strong bodies of his troops in various directions to cut off the retreat of the enemy. Burgoyne retired by Saratoga Creek to the Hudson, at which point he was met by the New-Hampshire militia, under the command of Colonels Webster, Bel- lows, and Morey. At this place the enemy halted, and Bur- goyne observed "it was vain to contend with the owners of the soil." Therefore he and his army laid down their arms, and surrendered themselves prisoners of war. The con- vention was signed by Generals Gates and Burgoyne, on the 17th of October. The storm had ceased, the mists were dissipated, and the evening became calm and delightful.

As a patriot, Col. Webster could partake of the joys of victory; as a man, however, he could but weep for the death of a beloved and favorite brother. Amos Webster, who commanded a company of Light Infantry, attached to Col. Morgan's corps during these perilous days, was cut down while in the arms of victory: he simply inquired which side gave way, and being told, exclaimed, "It is enough—I die in peace." Col. Webster went with the escort to Albany, where he was discharged, and returned home. During the rest of the war, Col. Webster was active in collecting beef and other supplies for the army. He was distinguished for his courage and integrity, and was sociable. He was a friend of peace and good order, but he made it an invariable rule not to be forced to surrender any important right for the sake of peace; and his opinions once formed, were not easily shaken.

FOR THE LITERARY JOURNAL.

CINCINNATUS—No. CIII.

GOVERNMENT.

There remains one other branch of executive authority to be considered, and that is the power to grant reprieves and pardons to persons, who by due course of law have been convicted of crimes and offences. But as I have in a former paper (No. XCVIII) considered the subject in general, and particularly in relation to the general government, I now submit some observations as it respects the state governments.

According to our constitutions, it appears there are fifteen States in which the governor *alone* has the power to grant pardons, and seven in which he may do it *with the advice of council*, and but two States in which there is no authority given to grant pardons in any case. Most of the States consider this power necessary, and a majority entrust it to a single individual.

The power to grant reprieves, that is, to suspend the execution and process of the law for a definite time, is expressly given to the Executive in some States ; and in most of them has been more or less used and practised. But I do not recollect any authority given, either by the constitution or statute laws of New-Hampshire, to the Executive to grant reprieves in any case ; yet in this State, since the establishment of our constitution, in three or more instances where persons had been convicted of homicide in the first degree, and judgment rendered that they should be executed on certain days, though the executive refused pardons, they reprieved the criminals. The practice of granting reprieves in this State has, I think, been confined to offenders who were under sentence of death ; and even then it ought to be seldom exercised. The law has vested the judicial tribunal not only with the sole power to decide upon the guilt of the accused, but entrusted them with authority to fix the *time of execution*.—The power to decide whether an individual has forfeited his life, is vastly more important than that of determining *the day* on which the forfeiture shall be exacted. The great object of inflicting capital punishment is to deter others from the commission of crimes, but reprieves have a tendency to diminish that terror, for laws have never such a powerful effect upon the fears of the wicked, as when they are promptly and literally executed.—I know only two cases in which reprieves can with propriety be granted—convicts who are *non compos mentis*, and women in certain stages of pregnancy. I am aware that some eminent men have contended, that when the executive are fully satisfied that new evidence has been discovered, which if known at the trial would have acquitted the convict, a reprieve ought to be granted. But I think, in such a case, the executive should *pardon*, not

reprieve. For existing laws allow of no review in criminal prosecutions. The legislature may decline passing a law for a new trial—but what is more doubtful, have they a *right* to do it, and would the judiciary sustain it?

Our constitution authorizes the governor with the advice of the council to grant pardons to such offenders only as have been *convicted by a court of law*; but prohibits them from pardoning those who have not been convicted, and also those who have been convicted by the senate upon impeachment of the house.

It reflects great honour that but few crimes of great enormity have been committed in New-Hampshire. Here no man has been convicted of treason; and but very few of homicide. And to the credit of the executive, I believe, not a single instance has occurred in which they have pardoned a murderer—not one for the last forty years. The certainty of punishment has done much to prevent the commission of crimes.

Of the minor offences, instances have frequently occurred; but I think fewer in proportion to population than the average number in many of the other states. But considering the mildness of our criminal code, and the necessity of restraining bad men by the *certainty* of punishment, too many of these offenders have been pardoned by the executive—such as those who were convicted of passing counterfeit money and bank bills, of theft, of libels, and of assaults and batteries. But here, too, if we compare the executive record of pardons granted in this State, with that of some other States, we shall find the number of pardons much less than theirs. In New-Hampshire, in five years and nine months, ending with June 1818, there were one hundred and seventeen convicts committed to the State Prison; of these only six were pardoned. In Massachusetts, in sixteen years, one thousand four hundred and seventy one were committed to their State Prison; of these two hundred forty two were pardoned: and in New-York in 1822, there had been, from the establishment of their state prisons to that time, five thousand sixty nine convicts committed, of whom two thousand eight hundred and nineteen were pardoned. Hence it appears that in Massachusetts more than one sixth of the convicts were pardoned, and in New-York more than half, but in New-Hampshire not one in nineteen.

If pardons should in future be obtained with as much facility, and continue to increase as they recently have in some of the States, they will eventually destroy the efficacy and usefulness of our penal laws. Their influence will prove fatal to our penitentiary system—the States must abandon their State Prisons, and with them the consoling hope of preserving a code of mild and humane criminal law. Crimes will then be suffered to exist without punishment, or that which is severe and sanguinary must be inflicted.

The executive department of every State should never forget that the principle of *self-preservation* requires the prompt and

faithful execution of penal laws, and that the *certainty of execution* should seldom be impaired by pardons, and then only in extraordinary cases—such as those who are insane, pregnant women, and those who had witnesses not known and present at the trial, who could prove their innocence. Upon these principles but few pardons would be granted, and the law would be executed with such *certainty* as would afford security to the peaceable and virtuous, and prove a *terror to evil doers*.

Pity and compassion for the convicts, and their families and friends, have often been the sole cause of granting pardons.— Though these softer and finer feelings are honourable to the man, they are blind and dangerous guides to a public officer, who is required to exercise his authority with sound discretion, according to the principles of law, of reason, and of strict justice. What is mercy to the convict, is cruelty to the community. A pardon releases the convict, and turns him loose upon society to commit new crimes and make further depredation. The history of criminals proves, that the principal use of punishment is to restrain the criminal whilst confined from committing other offences, and to deter others from evil. Punishment rarely reforms the offender. In New-York, of twenty three convicts who were committed to the state prison upon second and third convictions, in the year 1815, twenty of them had been previously *pardoned* upon the first conviction.

In some of the States, particularly in the one last mentioned, pardons have been granted, not because the offenders had any claim to mercy, but because the state prison was not large enough to receive the new convicts. And in some States, offenders have been pardoned upon the condition they would leave the State. A principle too *narrow and selfish* for the administration of justice, and the security of the country.

Applications and petitions from many respectable men who were influenced by pity and compassion, and not by a knowledge and consideration of the case, have, in all the States, had an undue influence upon the executive, and too often induced them to grant pardons where they would otherwise have refused them. But few of these petitioners consider themselves responsible for the truth of their statements, and none of them unaccountable for the pardon they solicit the executive do grant. Indeed, instances have occurred where men, from whom we had no reason to expect such things, have been induced to solicit pardons for the most abandoned and wicked criminals—the vilest of the vile. In New-York we are informed on high authority, “that the business of procuring pardons, has become the steady and profitable employment of many individuals, who attempt the grossest imposition upon the governor.” It would not be an improper, or uncharitable rule, for the executive to receive petitions for pardons with great caution and much distrust. Indeed, these petitions, in general, merit censure and not praise.

The great difficulty of ascertaining the facts necessary to establish the propriety of granting a pardon, is conclusive evidence, that where pardons are numerous, they are very often improper. The number, general character, and zeal of petitioners is not sufficient. The judgment of the court establishes the guilt of the convict, and their records import absolute verity. Is the executive to try the cause again, and review the judgment of the highest court of law, and that without the aid of a jury? what means have they of doing it? The petitioners may procure *willing* witnesses to attend, but who can procure those against the criminal? The convict, or his friends, may procure able council to argue his cause, but who has authority to require the attendance and argument of the attorney general? In some States, such a course of proceeding would leave the governor little, if any time to perform the most important duties of his office; and in the end be attended with more evil than good to the community.

The only safe course for the executive, as well as the country is to grant but few pardons, and those only in extreme cases.— There are some crimes of such an atrocious character, inflict such serious injury upon society, and are the result, not of a sudden impulse of passion, but of deliberate reflection, and of such great depravity and malignity of heart, that they ought never to be pardoned. In Great Britain, *forgery* is considered an unpardonable offence, and considering the extent of our commerce, and the vast amount of our bank bills, promissory notes, and other written contracts, the same rule might with propriety be adopted in this country.

If but few pardons are granted, it is *possible* an innocent man may suffer; but where pardons are numerous, it is *certain* the community must suffer. Sound policy requires us to avoid a course that will *necessarily* produce evil, rather than that which is *only possible*.

CINCINNATUS.

August 7th, 1824.



REMARKS ON LONGEVITY.

Longevity does not appear to be restricted to any particular climate; for remarkable instances of it may be produced, both from very hot and very cold countries, though certainly, they appear to have been more numerous in temperate climes. It is highly probable, that the human frame is so constituted, as to adapt itself easily to the atmosphere and peculiarities of the country, in which it receives life, or even into which it is afterwards removed. Thus France and Sweden are countries, differing materially in soil and climate: the general mode of life of the inhabitants, is likewise very different; yet the usual rate of mortality has been

found nearly the same in both, being about one in thirty-five per annum. Men can live equally well under very different circumstances: it is sudden changes, that are injurious; and temperate climates, being less liable to such changes, are found to be most favorable to the continuance of life. There are, however, in almost every situation, particular districts more favorable to health and longevity, than others. The cause of this superiority is chiefly a free circulation of the air, uncontaminated with the noxious vapours and exhalations, which destroy its purity in other parts. Thus hilly districts are universally found more healthy than low and marshy places.

Of 145 persons who are recorded to have lived to the age of 120 years and upwards, more than half were inhabitants of Great-Britain, viz.

63 of England and Wales,	29 of Ireland,
23 of Scotland,	30 of other countries.

The number of instances in Scotland, compared with those of England, appears to have been more than twice the proportion of the population, which certainly seems to shew that the climate of the former is very favorable to long life.

It is a fact pretty well established, that more *males* are born than *females*; it is also well known, that in almost every form which animal life assumes, the male appears to possess a somewhat superior degree of bodily strength to the female. From these circumstances it might be expected that the number of males living would be found greater than that of females, and that, in general, they would enjoy a greater duration of life: the contrary, however, has been asserted, and evidence produced which appeared to justify such an opinion; but it seems probable, that in forming the accounts from which the number of females living appeared greater than that of the males, sufficient attention was not paid to the number of males engaged chiefly abroad in the army and navy, and of the emigrations to foreign parts being chiefly males. And that the apparent deficiency in England arose from these causes, is shewn by the result of the late enumeration; in which, including soldiers and seamen, the totals of males and females appeared nearly equal, the latter exceeding the former by less than one in a hundred; a difference that may be easily accounted for from the number of males who leave England for the East and West Indies, and other foreign parts. In America, which receives a considerable part of the emigrants, who reduce the male population of the European states, the total of males ap-

pears greater than that of the females, being nearly in the proportion of one hundred males to ninety-six females : so that it is highly probable, if correct accounts could be had of the real number of males and females belonging to any country, they would be found nearly equal ; and the greater number of males *born* would appear a provision for the greater destruction of male lives by war, navigation, and various casualties. That the male constitution is naturally more durable than that of females, may be inferred from the preceding account of 145 persons who have attained unusual great age, more than two-thirds of the number being males ; but the greater mortality from adventitious causes, which brings the numbers of each sex near to equality, renders the expectations of life likewise nearly equal.

Longevity has been supposed to be in a great degree hereditary ; and as weakness and disease are frequently so, it appears very probable that the constitution of body, and disposition of mind best adapted for duration may prevail much more in some families, than others. Dr. Rush says, he has not found a single instance of a person who had lived to be eighty years of age who was not descended from long-lived ancestors ; it is certain, however, there have been in this country many persons who have exceeded eighty years, who did not know that any of their family were remarkable for longevity. The form of the individual appears of more importance. Moderate sized and well proportioned persons have certainly the best chance of long life. There are, however, a few instances of persons of a different description having attained considerable age. Mary Jones, who died in 1773, at Wem, in Shropshire, aged 100 years, was only two feet eight inches high, very deformed and lame ; and James M'Donald, who died near Cork, 20th August, 1760, aged 117, was seven feet six inches high.

Matrimony, if not entered into too early, appears to be very conducive to health and long life, the proportion of unmarried ladies attaining great age, being remarkably small. Dr. Rush says, that in the course of his enquiries, he met with only one person beyond eighty years of age, who had never been married. This is a very limited remark : Mrs. Malton, who died in 1733, aged 105 ; Ann Kerney, who died the same year, aged 110 ; Martha Dunridge, who died in 1752, in the 100th year of her age ; and Mrs. Warren, who died in 1753, aged 104, had never been married ; and in the list prefixed to Sir John Sinclair's Essay on longevity, of pensioners in Greenwich hospital who were upwards of eighty

years old, there are sixteen who were never married: the same list, however, contains five times as many persons who had been married, and other accounts are in a still greater proportion.

The Chinese erect triumphal or honorary arches to the memory of persons who have lived a century, thinking, that without a sober and virtuous life, it is impossible to attain so great an age. Temperance is certainly the best security of health; and no man can reasonably expect to live long who impairs the vital powers by excess which converts the most natural and beneficial enjoyments into the most certain means of destruction. The few instances of individuals who, notwithstanding their licentious mode of life, have attained considerable age, cannot be put in comparison with the immense number whose lives have been materially shortened by such indulgences. Dr. Fothergill observes, that "the due regulation of the passions perhaps contributes more to health and longevity than any of the other non-naturals;" and the due regulation of the passions constitutes the most important part, if it is not the very essence, of a virtuous course of life.

The cheerful and contented are certainly more likely to enjoy good health and long life, than persons of irritable and fretful dispositions; therefore, whatever tends to promote good humor and innocent hilarity, must have a beneficial influence in this respect; and persons whose attention is much engaged on serious subjects, should endeavor to preserve a relish for cheerful recreations.

In the Boston Centinel of the 7th of August, we find the following communication on *family* longevity, to which we have added two families which have come under our own observation.

"An account of the extraordinary longevity of the *family of Peters*, has recently been published in several of the papers.* Of this account, it is remarked, that it "is an instance

* ARTICLE ALLUDED TO.

It is believed there are few instances of family longevity so extraordinary as that of the family of **PETERS**, of Medfield, Mass. of which the following is an accurate account:—

William Peters, (the father) died about the year 1786 or 7—at the age of 85 years.
Hannah, his wife, died in 1796, aged 93 "

Their children were

Joseph Peters,	died Feb. 13,	. . . . .	1800,	aged	71 "
Benjamin "	" July,	. . . . .	1803,	"	72 "
Mary "	" May,	. . . . .	1813,	"	81 "
Adam "	" March,	. . . . .	1813,	"	79 "
Eve "	" Dec. 1,	. . . . .	1823,	"	87 "

of longevity which probably has never been equalled in this country." Remarkable, however, as that case is, yet it will be seen by the following notices, that it has been surpassed in several instances.

The first of the following accounts is extracted from *Belknap's History of New-Hampshire*; the second from the *Massachusetts Historical Collections*; the third from *Dr. Dwight's Travels*; the fourth from *Niles' Register*; the fifth from the *New-Hampshire Historical Collections*; the sixth from the *Transactions of the Phil. Soc. at Philadelphia*.

1. Colonel JAMES DAVIS, of N. H. died in 1749, aged 88. He had 9 children of the following ages.

James,	.	.	.	.	.	93
Thomas,	.	.	.	.	.	88
Samuel,	.	.	.	.	.	99
Daniel,	.	.	.	.	.	65
Sarah,	.	.	.	.	.	91
Hannah,	.	.	.	.	.	77
Elizabeth,	.	.	.	.	.	79
Ephraim,	.	.	.	.	.	87
Phebe, living at the age of	.	.	.	.	.	85

Sum of their ages,	.	.	.	.	.	764
Average age,	.	.	.	.	.	84 8-9

2. ENOCH COFFIN, Esq. of Edgartown, died in 1761, aged 83. He had 10 children of the following ages.

Love,	.	.	.	.	.	88
Hepzibah,	.	.	.	.	.	90
Elizabeth,	.	.	.	.	.	73
Abigail,	.	.	.	.	.	88
John,	.	.	.	.	.	82
Enoch,	.	.	.	.	.	90
Deborah,	.	.	.	.	.	80
Benjamin,	.	.	.	.	.	75

Tahpunis	"	"	Nov. 25,	.	.	.	1817,	"	.	.	.	77	"
Andrew	"	"	Feb. 5,	.	.	.	1822,	"	.	.	.	80	"
Nathan	"	"	Feb.	.	.	.	1824,	"	.	.	.	77	"
Finis	"	"	Dec. 16,	.	.	.	1822,	"	.	.	.	73	"
Jethro	"	"	(still living) born June 13, 1744, is now	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	80	"

955

By which it appears that the average age of the ten children of William and Hannah Peters, rather exceeds 77 years and 8 months—and the average age of the family (the parents included) is exactly 79 years and 7 months.

The facts were furnished by the venerable Jethro Peters, the only surviving member of the family, who, on the day he completed his 80th year, travelled on foot the distance of 13 miles.

Samuel,	70
Beulah, living at the age of	80
<hr/>	
Sum of their ages,	816
Average age,	81 3-5

3. Deacon DAVID MARSH, of Haverhill, Mass. died in his 80th year; his wife in her 92d. They had 12 children.

The eldest died in her	84th year.
The second in her	88th "
The third in her	80th "
The second son in his	81st "
The fifth in his	69th "
The Eldest is now in his	87th "
The third in his	82d "
The fourth in his	80th "
The sixth in his	76th "
The seventh in his	73d "
The fourth daughter in her	71st "
The fifth in her	69th "

Sum of their ages,	940
Average age,	78 2-5

4. Dr. H. MARTIN, died at Marblehead, leaving 7 children, four sons and three daughters, by his first wife, all lately living, at the following ages : 88, 87, 80, 76, 73, 71, 61.—Sum of their ages 537—average 76 5-7. He left also two other children by a second wife, age 53 and 51. He had besides three other children, one of whom died in infancy, the other two are at an advanced age.

5. MARY BRIGGS died at Wellington, Mass. in 1813, aged 102, leaving 9 children, aged as follows : 79, 77, 73, 72, 70, 68, 63, 60, 57. Sum of their ages 619—average 68, 7-8.

6. Mr. TEMPLE, of the County of Worcester, Mass. died in 1765, aged 86. He left 8 children 4 sons and 4 daughters, all living in 1788, at the following ages :—89, 85, 83, 81, 79, 77, 75, 73. Sum of their ages 644—average 80 1-2.

The average age of the 10 children of the Peters' family was 77, 7-12. But with regard to the 1st, 2d, and 3d, of the above families, the average age was still greater, though in the third instance, 7 out of the 12 children were living, when the account was written. In the other instances, the average was given for persons who were supposed to be all living.

[To the preceding instances of Longevity, we take the liberty of adding the family of OLIVER FARMER of Billerica,

who died February 23, 1761, aged 76. His wife died February 25, 1773, in her 77th year. They had nine children who attained the following ages.

			years.	days.
1. Abigail [Richardson]	died Jan. 13, 1791,	aged	70	352
2. Mary [Baldwin]	" Sept. 25, 1803,	"	72	19
3. Sarah [Jewett]	" Dec. 8, 1819,	"	95	346
4. Betty [Rogers]	} twins " Aug. 30, 1809,	"	79	97
5. Rebecca [Rogers]		"	83	79
6. Oliver Farmer,	" Feb. 24, 1814,	"	85	196
7. Isabella [Warren]	" Dec. 26, 1793,	"	62	228
8. Edward Farmer,	" Aug. 4, 1804,	"	70	149
9. John Farmer,	" Jan. 9, 1806,	"	69	21

Sum of their ages 689 years, 27 days.

Average age 76 " 205 " an average within a year as great as that of the Peters' family.

To this we will add an account, published in the Salem Gazette of 1812, of a family of eight children born in Chelmsford, who were all living at the commencement of that year, of the following ages.

			year.
1. Ephraim Warren, born	Dec. 16, 1731,	in his	81st
2. John Warren,	" Sept. 14, 1733,	" "	79th
3. Esther Warren,	" April 27, 1735,	" her	77th
4. Isaac Warren,	" Jan. 30, 1737,	" his	75th
5. Lydia Richardson,	" Jan. 1, 1739,	" her	73d
6. Elizabeth Parkhurst,	" May 25, 1741,	" "	71st
7. Thomas Warren,	" April 5, 1743,	" his	69th
8. Josiah Warren	" April 27, 1745,	" "	67th

This family, excepting Josiah Warren, now in his 80th year, have all died since January, 1812, and the most of them of eighty years, or upwards. The parents of the preceding averaged about 80 years.—EDITORS.]



FECUNDITY. In examining the records of the town of Billerica, in Massachusetts, about ten years since, we found recorded the names of twenty six families, consisting of *ten* children each, twenty families of *eleven* children each, twenty four families of *twelve* children each, thirteen families of *thirteen* each, five families of *fourteen* each, one family of *fifteen*, and one family of *twenty one* children—total ninety families, consisting of one thousand and forty three individuals, besides the parents. The greatest number of children to any one family, was 21, and these were by two wives. Such instances of extraordinary fecundity in the early settlement of our

country were not rare. Dr. Mather mentions "one woman who had not less than *twenty two* children, and another had no less than *twenty three* children by one husband, whereof nineteen lived to men's and woman's estate, and a third who was mother to *seven and twenty* children." The mother of Governor Phipps had *twenty-five* children of which twenty-one were sons. Rev. John Sherman, the first minister of Watertown had *twenty-six* children by two wives,—twenty by his last wife. Rev. Samuel Willard, the first minister of Groton, and afterwards of Boston, and Vice President of Harvard college, had twenty children. Major Simon Willard, his father, one of the first settlers of Concord, had a family of *seventeen* children, of whom nine were sons and all attained mature age and had families.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

From Col. Scammell to Col. Peabody.

[For a biographical notice of Col. Scammell, see vol. ii, p. 166 of these Collections. A memoir of Col. Peabody was published in the January No. of the present year.]

West-Point, Sept. 29, 1779.

[EXTRACT.] Does Congress mean to make the officers any permanent consideration? or do they intend to coax them on by doing a little and promising them a great deal, till the war is over, and then leave them without money, (consequently without friends); without estates, and many without property or constitutions, the two latter of which they have generously sacrificed in defence of their country. This is the language of the officers almost universally, from all the states. My station makes it my duty to make every thing as easy and quiet as possible. But I shudder at the consequences, as I am convinced that in the approaching winter, we shall lose many of our brave officers, who must resign or doom themselves to want and misery by remaining longer in the best of causes, and which in justice should entitle them to liberal considerations and rewards. That men who have braved death, famine, and every species of hardship, in defence of their liberties and fighting for their country, should thereby be reduced to slavery, or what is equally as bad, beggary, will be an eternal stigma upon the United States, and prevent proper men from ever stepping forth in defence of their country again.

The bearer, Mr. Guild, a tutor in Harvard College, is an honest, clever, sensible whig; whatever civility you show him will add an obligation on yours truly,

A. SCAMMELL.

Nathaniel Peabody, Esq.

From Col. Scammell to Col. Peabody.

Head-Quarters Steenrapie, near Hackinsack Old Bridge, Sept. 6, 1780.

DEAR SIR—I am extremely happy to have ocular demonstration that you are well enough to brandish the goose-quill again. When I had the disagreeable news of your being dangerously ill, I wished to ride to Morristown to see you. I attempted to write, but business permitted neither.

The army regrets the recalling decree of Congress, and that your committee should be absent from the army at this critical juncture, when famine daily extends her threatening baleful sceptre. What will be the consequence of the present system of supplies? Are we to be in continual danger of a dissolution? Must the United States of America, replete with the sources—full of men, rolling in luxuries—strong in allies—entered on the scale of nations under a solemn appeal to Heaven, languish in the field—her veterans fainting, her officers at the head of raw troops, obliged to risque their lives and reputation; with troops counting the moments in painful anxiety, when they shall return home and leave us with scattered ranks? If the regiments are not filled for the war, our cause must fail, I am bold to pronounce. Not a continental officer, I fear, will be left in the field, if he must every six months, become a drill serjeant. It is too mortifying to risque a six years' reputation with inexperienced troops. Our good and great General, I fear, will sink under the burthen, though he has been possessed of the extremest fortitude hitherto, which has enabled him to be equal to every difficulty, and to surmount what to a human eye appeared impossible. But a continual dropping will impress a stone, and a bow too long strained, loses its elasticity. I have ever cherished hopes, but my patience is almost thread-bare.

We yesterday inclined to this place, and took a new position about two miles from our former one, on the west side of the Hackinsack. Our army is remarkably healthy—but frequently fasting without prayers. I condole with you on the disagreeable news from the southward, and lament the fate of so many brave officers and men. After suffering

the extremes of hunger and fatigue, to be basely deserted by the militia, and pushed on to be sacrificed, is truly distressing. Hunger occasioned so great desertion, that their numbers were reduced to a handful in comparison with their numbers when they left Maryland. What demon could induce General G. to advance so far towards the enemy with so few men? And why did he retreat so rapidly and leave his brave men behind?

Wishing you a speedy and perfect recovery of your health, I am yours truly,

A. SCAMMELL.

Col. Peabody.

From Col. Scammell to Col. Peabody.

Head Quarters, October 3, 1780.

DEAR SIR—Treason! Treason! Treason! black as h—l! That a man so high on the list of fame should be guilty as Arnold, must be attributed not only to original sin, but actual transgressions. Heavens and Earth! we were all astonishment, each peeping at his next neighbor to see if any treason was hanging about him: nay, we even descended to a critical examination of ourselves. This surprise soon settled down into a fixed detestation and abhorrence of Arnold, which can receive no addition. His treason has unmasked him the veriest villain of centuries past, and set him in true colors. His conduct and sufferings at the northward, has in the eyes of the army and his country, covered a series of base, grovelling, dirty, scandalous and rascally speculation and fraud; and the army and country, ever indulgent and partial to an officer who has suffered in the common cause, wished to cover his faults: and we were even afraid to examine too closely, for fear of discovering some of his rascality. Now after all these indulgencies, the partiality of his countrymen, the trust and confidence the commander in chief had reposed in him, the prodigious sums that he has pilfered from his country, which has been indulgent enough to overlook his mal-practices, I say, after all this, it is impossible to paint him in colors sufficiently black. Avarice, cursed avarice, with unbounded ambition, void of every principle of honor, honesty, generosity or gratitude, induced the caitiff to make the first overtures to the enemy, as Andre, the British Adjutant General declared upon his honor, when on trial before the general officers. This brave, accomplished officer, was yesterday hanged; not a single

spectator but what pitied his untimely fate, although filled with gratitude for the providential discovery; convinced that his sentence was just, and that the law of nations and custom of war justified and rendered it necessary. Yet his personal accomplishments, appearance and behaviour, gained him the good wishes and opinion of every person who saw him. He was, perhaps, the most accomplished officer of the age—he met his fate in a manner which did honor to the character of a soldier. Smith, the man who harbored him, is under trial for his life, and I believe will suffer the same fate. May Arnold's life be protracted under all the keenest stings and reflections of a guilty conscience—be hated and abhorred by all the race of mankind, and finally suffer the excruciating tortures due to so great a traitor.

I am, in haste, your friend and servant,

A. SCAMMELL.

Col. Peabody.

From Col. Scammell to Col. Peabody.

New-Windsor, March 9th, 1781.

DEAR SIR—I was very sorry to hear you passed by without calling upon me. I hope before this, you have perfectly recovered your health. Your friendship and anxiety for the good of the service, will perhaps make any intelligence from us by no means disagreeable. Now we have got a tolerable supply of provisions, we want men; no recruits have arrived yet, except a few stragglers. The enemy are penetrating into the southern states in several parts, ravaging, plundering and destroying every thing their licentious, unprincipled murderers choose. Lord Cornwallis, after Morgan's victory, having divested himself of all his baggage, made a most desperate pursuit after Morgan, but was providentially stopped short in his pursuit by the sudden rising of a river, occasioned by a heavy rain after Morgan had forded it. Cornwallis then changed his route, and pursued Gen. Greene, who was obliged to retire before him, to the borders of Virginia, nearly two hundred miles. The rapidity of the pursuit, and retrograde movement of our southern army, I believe, prevented the militia of that thinly settled country, from reinforcing Gen. Greene seasonably. However, by the advices this day received, Lord Cornwallis was retiring, and Gen. Greene, in turn, pursuing him. A pretty reinforcement is sent from Virginia to General Greene which, I hope, may arrive in season to enable Gen.

Greene to act offensively, unless Cornwallis is reinforced again. Arnold is speculating upon Tobacco and Negroes, in Virginia. Another part of the enemy has landed in North Carolina. The Marquis had, by our last advice, arrived at the head of Elk, with the light infantry of our army. The grenadiers and light infantry of the French army, I expect by this time, have joined him. I most devoutly wish, that the Marquis may ruin the traitor, and catch his party. We have been obliged to put much to the risk, on account of the present weakness of our corps. I hope for success—but it is wrong, exceeding wrong, that the commander in chief should be put to the dangerous necessity of putting so much to the hazard for the safety of the southern states. Had our regiments been filled agreeable to the requisitions of congress, Clinton would never have presumed to make such large detachments from New-York. I intreat you to make use of your utmost influence to persuade the state to raise and send on their full complement of recruits as soon as possible; our situation, otherwise, will soon become very critical.

I am, Sir, your most obedient friend and servant,
A. SCAMMELL.

Col. Peabody.

Original Letter of Joseph Woodbridge, son of Rev. John Woodbridge, the first Minister of Andover, Mass.

GENTLEMEN,—I thought to have waited upon you myself this your meeting, but having such illness in my family, that I cannot leave them now, I have lately writ to your committee that are to appoint and settle the common rights in the town of Andover in reference to my Father John Woodbridge his right, &c.

Gentlemen, you know that my father purchased the whole town of Andover, of Cushamache, the Sagamore of the Massachusetts, in behalf of the inhabitants of Cochichawick,* which were then but nineteen in number, besides women and children. My father was then an inhabitant of Andover, and then had a wife and four or five children, and managed the affairs of said town, besides carrying out a considerable estate, and encouraging of people to settle there, a considerable time before Mr. Bradstreet was an inhabitant there. I

*The Indian name of Andover.

am sensible that most of the old standards are dead and gone in Andover, as well as in Newbury, and those inhabitants that are upon the stage now, know but little of the first settlers of the town, so I would have this distinctly read and considered by my loving friends and neighbours, and judge with themselves whether my father had not an honest and lawful right thereto, and whether he ought not in justice and equity have as good common right, as any now living in Andover. If I had time I would ask how you had come by your right, for my father nor any of his children ever disposed of any of what he bought of Cushamache, and until you have a quit claim from him, how can you proceed? I should be glad to hear from you in some convenient time.

Gentlemen, your humble servant,

JOSEPH WOODBRIDGE.

Newbury, May 14th, 1714.

October 24th, 1645. The Rev. Mr. John Woodbridge, was ordained by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Worcester, Teacher of the church of Andover.

The names of the Members of the church then.

John Woodbridge, <i>Teacher</i> ,	John Osgood,
Robert Barnard,	John Frye,
Nicholas Holt,	Richard Barker,
Joseph Parker,	Nathan Parker,
Richard Blake,	Edmund Faulkner.

MISCELLANIES.

[We have been lately furnished by a gentleman of Massachusetts, with a number of interleaved Almanacks published in Cambridge, soon after the art of printing was introduced into this country. Among them is one for 1650, by Urian Oakes, afterwards President of Harvard College, having the well known motto, *Parvum parva decent: sed inest sui gratia parvis*, and several by Rev. Samuel Danforth, of Harvard College, Philo-mathemat., afterwards a distinguished minister in Roxbury. From those of the latter, we have selected the following interesting Chronological table, which is very particular as to the exact dates of several

important events in the early settlement of Massachusetts. It will be recollected that the year began in March, and the months are numbered accordingly.—EDITORS.]

1647.

A CHRONOLOGICALL TABLE

of some few memorable things, which happened since the first planting of Massachusetts.

The Day.	The Month.	The Year.	Since Christ.
4 12		1630	
6 27			
7 30			
12 5			
6 5		1632	
9 23			
12 21			
9		1633	
6 2		1634	
7 4			
6 15		1635	
6 25		1636	
8 22			
6 30		1637	
12			
2 21		1638	
4 1			
5			
		1639	
4		1642	

[* The following is the account given by Hubbard of the discovery of the White Mountains by Darby Field.—*Hist. N. E.*

" In the same year, 1642, one Darbyfield, an Irishman, with some others, travelled to an high Mountain, called the White Hills, an hundred miles, or near upon to the west of Saco. It is the highest hill in these parts of America. They passed through many of the lower and rainy clouds as they ascended up to the top thereof, but some that were there afterwards, saw clouds above them. There is a plain sixty feet square on the top, a very steep precipice on the west side, and all the country round about them seemed like a level, and much beneath them. There was a great expectation of some precious things to be found, either on the top or in the ascent, by the glistering of some white stones. Something was found like crys-

- 1642 | The first Indian that held forth a clear work of conversion to christianity, was Wequash of Saybrook.
- 1643 | 3 | The first uniting of the 4 English Colonies.
The first time the Indian Sachems submitted themselves and their people to the English.
- 4 22 | viz. Pumham and Sacononcho.
- 1644 | 1 8 | Cutchamakin, Mascanomet, Squaw Sachem.
Wassamegen, Nathawanon.
4 | Passaconoway and his Sonnes.
- The first year wherein the severall colonies agreed freely to contribute to the furtherance of learning.
- 1646 | The first time wherein through the tender mercy of God, the Gospell was preached to the Indians in their owne language, by Mr I. E. [Rev. John Eliot,] teacher of the Church at Roxbury, whereby much illumination and sweet affection was in a short time wrought in diverse of them and hopeful reformation begun, in abandoning idleness, filthy-ness and other known sinnes, and in offering up themselves and their children to the English freely and gladly, that they might be better instructed in the things of God.
- The first Indian towne given by the Generall Courte to the Indians within the bounds of Cambridge, called Nonauntum, that is to say, joy or gladness.

The time when these townes following began.

1628 Salem	1631 Marble-Head	1639 Gloucester
1629 Charls-town	1633 Ipswitch	Salisbury
Linne	1634 Newbury	Wenham
1630 Dorchester	Hingham	1640 Woburn
Water-town	1635 Dedham	Braintree
Roxbury	Concord	Reading
Boston	1638 Hampton	Manchester
1631 Cambridge	Sudbury	1641 Haverhill
Weymouth	1639 Rowley	Hull

INDIAN DEPREDACTIONS.

[The Editors have recently been furnished with a file of the "*Boston Gazette, or Weekly Journal*," for 1746-1748, from which they make the following extracts, relating to the Indian hostilities during that period, in this quarter of the country.]

Extract of a letter from Upper-Ashuelot, [Keene] dated April 23, 1746.

This morning an army of our northern enemy beset us, and fell upon some as they were going a small distance from the Fort, fired upon them, and followed them up even to the very walls, though faced and fired upon by some who

tal, but nothing of value. It appeared to them that made the most diligent observations of the country round about, that many great rivers of New-England rise out of that mountain as Saco and Kennebeck, to the north and east, Connecticut, to the south, as they conceived; as cosmographers observe that four great rivers arise out of the mountains of Helvetia, accounted the highest land in Europe. In each of these rivers, they report at the first issue, there is water enough to drive a mill."

were at the gate, and plied so warmly, both by soldiers and inhabitants, that they soon bore off. They shot *John Bul-lard*, who in a few hours expired, and killed an aged woman, the wife of *Daniel M'Kenney*; and *Nathan Blake*, one of our inhabitants, being out, is not since been heard of, whom we surpose to be taken or killed. They killed several of our creatures, and fired six of our houses and one barn, (in which for want of room in the Fort) there was considerable of treasure and provisions; and we being but few, and our enemy so numerous, and so far distant from any help, the time appears exceeding gloomy and distressing.

We hear from No. 4 [Charlestown] a new township to the westward, that three men, with a team of four oxen, having been at a saw mill to fetch boards, were surprised by a party of Indians, and the men being missing, are supposed to be either killed or made prisoners, the oxen being found dead, with their tongues cut out.

We likewise hear, that the Indians have lately surprised a garrison house in New-Hopkinton, and carried away captives two men, one woman, and five children.

Boston, May 13, 1746.

Last week came advice, that on the fourth instant one Mr. Cook, and a negro man, were, killed by the Indians, at a plantation called Contoocook, [Boscawen] and Mr. Jones of the same place being missing, it was supposed he was carried away captive.

About the same time, a man was killed near Lunenburgh, and scalped, and his horse's head not only cut off, but carried away. The man had in his pocket five hundred pounds (Old Tenor) in new bills of credit on this province, which he was going to pay to some soldiers in the publick service, but the Indians carried off the money, and the man's stockings.

And last Friday was 7 Night, a man was killed at No. 4 [near Hatfield] of the Narraganset towns, by a party of Indians who had hid themselves in a barn. They were fired upon by some of our men who happened to be at hand, and it is thought one of them was killed, he being seen to fall, and his hatchet and blanket being found upon the spot.

Boston, May 20, 1746.

We have advice by a vessel arrived from the eastward, that the Indians have lately killed two men and taken another prisoner, and that 29 Indian canoes had been seen to pass by George's Fort.

Boston, June 24, 1746.

On Tuesday last, arrived here Capt. Saunders, in the country sloop, from the eastward, and brings advice from St. George's, that about a fortnight ago 13 of the soldiers belonging to the garrison there, being at some small distance from the Fort, a rivulet running between, divided into two parties, one of the parties consisting of five men, carelessly lay down their guns, and strolled a little way from them; about 7 or 8 of the enemy Indians, which were skulking about, perceiving it, intercepted and got between them and their arms, which they seized, and firing upon them killed one of them named Timothy Cummings, wounded another, and carried another off, the rest escaped under the fire of the garrison, the other party retreated as fast as they could, and all soon got to the garrison, except an old man, who could walk but slowly. One of the Savages seeing him, came up so near as to lift up his hatchet in order to dispatch him at once, but the man having his gun charged, turned about and presenting it, shot the Indian dead upon the spot, and being within the reach of the guns at the Fort, which kept off the other Indians from molesting him, he stayed and scalped him; and we hear the scalp is brought to town.

We are informed that Thursday was 7 night, about 100 of the Indian enemy assaulted 10 men, who were at work within sight of Fort Massachusetts, at Hoosuck, in the county of Hampshire, and killed Elisha Nims, and a soldier who went from Marlborough, wounded Gershom Hawks in the arm, one Perry escaped and went to Fort Pelham; the other men with great resolution fought their way to the fort, some firing 5 or 6 times on the enemy; one of the Indians was shot dead not far from the Fort. The enemy being so much Superior to the number of men in the Fort, lying round them till the evening, they could not go forth to scalp the Indian that was killed.

Boston, July 1, 1746.

We hear that on Thursday the 19th instant, at a plantation called No. 4, Capt. Stevens, of the garrison there, and Capt. Brown, from Sudbury, with about 50 men, went out into the woods to look for horses; and coming near a causeway they were obliged to pass, their dogs being on the hunt before them, and barking very much, they suspected some Indians were near; whereupon, keeping a good look out, they discovered a great number of them, supposed to be a hundred and fifty, lying in ambush, waiting for them on the other side; so that if they had passed over, in all probability, most of

them might have been cut off. The Indians, upon finding themselves discovered, suddenly started up, and a smart engagement immediately ensued, in which it is supposed, the English fired first, and engaged them so closely and briskly that they soon drew off, and being followed by our men, retreated into a large swamp; whereupon the English returned to the garrison, not caring to venture after such numbers into so hazardous a place.

Boston, April 21, 1747.

We have advice from the eastward, that last Tuesday the Indians killed a man at Black Point, and on Wednesday, about one o'clock, they killed two persons, Mr. Elliot and his son at Saco, and at the same time took prisoner one John Murch, who was in company with them not far from the Fort.

We also hear, that about the same time, one man was killed and another taken prisoner within the bounds of Falmouth; and by an express from the westward we have advice, that two men have lately been killed at Northfield.

BILLERICA, IN 1680.

"To the Hon. Court sitting at Cambridge, March 31, 1680.

In observance of a warrant from ye Hon'd. Deputy Gov'r baring date, the 30th. 10m. 1679, our answer is as followeth.

As to a list of the number of males and rateable estates in our towne, wee have sent ye list that was taken last August, and returned from the commissioner's meeting.

As to the number of families, there is about fifty that are able to bear up publick charges. There is more of the aged that are helpless; the widowes, and poor persons that want reliefe, ten in number, which is all.

As to ye annuall allowance to our reverend Paster, our agreement is seventy pound Pr. ann. in country pay.

As for schooles, wee have no gramer schooles. Ensign Tompson is appointed to teach those to read and write that will come to him; also severall women, schoole Dames. As for tiething men, we have five in number.

Theire names are George Farley, Simon Crosby, John Shelden, Joseph Walker and Samuel Manning; and all sworne to the faithful discharge of their service according to law.

As for young persons and inmates, we know of none among us but are orderly."

By order of the Selectmen,

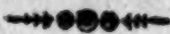
JONATHAN DANFORTH."

After the celebrated *Samuel Johnson*, D. D. first President of King's (now Columbia) College, N. Y. had resigned his charge of a Congregational Church, in Connecticut, where he had been settled, and had taken orders in the Church of England, he became acquainted with Dr. Franklin. A frequent correspondence between them ensued, in which Dr. Franklin strongly urged him to remove to the city of Philadelphia and accept the Presidency of a College, which Dr. F. was engaged in founding in that city. [About the year 1752.] Dr. F., as an additional inducement for Dr. J.'s removal to Philadelphia, had proposed to get a new church erected for him. Upon Dr. Johnson's expressing some doubts as to the propriety of this measure, Franklin endeavoured to remove the difficulty by some arguments so strongly characteristic of the man, that as the letter has never been published in any edition of his works, we cannot refrain from extracting a part: "Your tenderness of the Church's peace is truly laudable; but methinks, to build a new church in a growing place, is not properly *dividing*, but *multiplying*, and will really be a means of increasing those who worship God in that way. Many who cannot now be accommodated in the church, go to other places, or stay at home, would go to church. I had for several years nailed against the wall of my house a pigeon-box that would hold six pair, and though they bred as fast as my neighbors' pigeons, I never had more than six pair; the old and strong driving out the young and weak, and obliging them to seek new habitations. At length I put up an additional box, with apartments for entertaining twelve pair more, and it was soon filled with inhabitants, by the overflowing of my first box, and of others in the neighborhood. This I take to be a parallel case with building a new Church here."

Marriage.—A husband and wife, who love and value each other, shew their children and servants how they should behave. Those who live in contention and despise each other, lose much of their authority, and teach their children to act unnaturally.

APPENDIX.

Spirit of the Newspapers.



The following anecdote, illustrative of the noble qualities which have often distinguished our countrywomen, is given in the Boston Gazette, from an unquestionable source.

A good lady—we knew her well when she had grown old—in 1775, lived on the sea-board, a day's march from Boston, where the British army then was. By some unaccountable accident, a rumour was spread, in town and country, in and about there, that the regulars were on a full march for the place, and would probably arrive in three hours at farthest. This was after the battle of Lexington, and all, as might well be supposed, was in sad confusion; some were boiling with rage, and full of fight, some with fear and confusion; some hiding their treasures, and others flying for life. In this wild moment, when most people, in some way or other were frightened from their property, our heroine, who had two sons, one about nineteen years of age, and the other about sixteen, was seen by our informant, preparing them to discharge their duty.—The eldest she was able to equip in fine style—she took her husband's fowling piece, "made for duck or plover," (the good man being absent on a coasting voyage to Virginia,) and with it the powder horn and shot bag; but the lad thinking the duck and goose shot not quite the size to kill regulars, his mother took a chisel, cut up her pewter spoons, and hammered them into slugs, put them into his bag, and so he set off in great earnest, but thought he would call one moment to see the parson, who said well done, my brave boy—God preserve you—and on he went in the way of his duty. The youngest was importunate for his equipments, but his mother could find nothing to arm him with but an old rusty sword; the boy seemed rather unwilling to risk himself with this alone, but lingered in the street, in a state of hesitation, when his mother thus upbraided him: You John H*****, what will your father say, if he hears that a child of his is afraid to meet the British? go along; beg or borrow a gun, or you will find one, child—some coward, I dare say, will be running away, then take his gun and march forward, and if you come back and I hear you have not behaved like a man, I shall carry the blush of shame on my face to the grave." She then shut the door, wiped the tear from her eye, and waited the issue. The boy joined the march.

The widow of Riego, one of the most accomplished women of her time and country, is no more—she died of a broken heart.

She was descended from a statesman and united to a hero ; but unfortunately they took the love of freedom which was kindled in their own bosoms, as a proof that the same holy fire was burning in every other soul in the kingdom. By this they were deceived and ruined. They had not a sufficient acquaintance with free institutions to know how much knowledge and virtue it required to create and sustain them. We fear the day is far distant when Spain will be ranked with the enlightened and happy nations of the earth. Before that time arrives, she must overcome a thousand evils—her indolence must be shaken off—and superstition, which sits like the nightmare upon her vitals, must flee before the light of reason. But however far distant the day may be, still it will come—the light is shining all around them. France is ameliorating her system of policy, and the Ultras are in disgrace. True liberty and her attendant blessings—liberal institutions—are of slow growth, and cannot be brought to bear fruit at once. As well might one think to pluck up a full grown mountain ash from our forests, and planting it on the Appenines, look to see it instantly take root and flourish in its natural beauty, as to expect freedom of thought and action at once to supersede bigotry and despotism.

ORIGIN OF PSALM SINGING.

There is in "D'Israel's Curiosities of literature" an amusing account of the origin of Psalm Singing. It appears that the first book of Psalms in verse was written by Marot, a Frenchman, the favoured bard of Francis the first—that "Prince of Poets, and that Poet of Princes," as he was quaintly but expressively designated by his cotemporaries. It was published at Paris, and contained 52 psalms, written in a variety of measures, with "the same style he had done his ballads and Rondeaux." This "holy song book" was dedicated to the King of France ; and being a gay novelty, no book was ever more eagerly received by all classes than "Marot's Psalms ;" they sold faster than the Printers could take them off their presses, but as they were understood to be songs, and were accompanied by music, every one set them to favourite tunes, commonly those of popular ballads. The following lines, which conclude the dedication, well describe the feelings and enthusiasm of their author :—

Thrice happy they, who may behold,
And listen in that age of gold !
As by the plough the laborer strays,
And carmin 'mid the public ways,
And tradesman in his shop shall swell
Their voice in Psalm or Canticle,
Singing to solace toil ; again
From woods shall come a sweeter strain !
Shepherd and shepherdess shall vie
In many a tender psalmody ;

And the Creator's name prolong,
 As rock and stream return their song.
 Begin then, ladies fair ! begin
 The age renew'd that knows no sin !
 And with light heart, that wants no wing,
 Sing ! from this holy song book, sing !

The universal reception of "Marot's Psalms," induced Theodore Beza to conclude the collection, and ten thousand copies were immediately dispersed. These, however had the advantage of being set to music, for we are told they were " admirably fitted to the violin, and other musical instruments," and we learn with surprise that it was to Calvin, the " gloomy and ascetic Calvin," they were indebted for the beautiful airs with which they were accompanied. Taking advantage of the public feeling, he had engaged the first musical composers to aid, by the power of melody, the spread of his opinion. At first, this was not discovered, and Catholics as well as Huguenots were solacing themselves on all occasions with this new musick. But when Calvin appointed these Psalms to be sung at his meetings, and Marot's formed an appendix to the Catechism of Geneva, this put an end to all Psalm singing for the poor Catholics ! Marot himself was forced to fly to Geneva from the fulminations of the Sorbonne, and Psalm singing became an open declaration of what the French termed " Lutheranism."

In England its history is soon told. Sternhold, an enthusiast for the reformation, undertook to be our Marot—without his genius. His Psalms were practised by the puritans in the reign of Elizabeth, and more particularly during the protectorate of Cromwell, on the same plan of accommodating them to popular tunes and jigs, which one of them said, " were too good for the devil." Psalms were now sung at Lord Mayor's dinners and City feasts ; soldiers sung them on their march, and at parade ; and few houses, which had windows fronting the street but had their evening Psalm.

BATTLE WITH THE INDIANS.

A writer in the Boston Daily Advertiser, after recounting the particulars of the battle with the Indians, which took place April 18, 1676, in the town of Sudbury, Mass. mentions that there is now standing a monument erected to the memory of those of our countrymen who fell in the engagement. News having reached Boston that a body of Indians had made their appearance in Marlborough and Sudbury, Capt. Samuel Wadsworth, of Milton, was dispatched with a force of about forty men for the relief of the inhabitants. They came up with the Indians in the town of Sudbury,—amounting, so far as appeared, to about 100. Although fatigued by a long march, they immediately commenced the attack, and pursued the Indians for a considerable distance into the woods, when suddenly an ambush of 500 Indians

rushed upon them, and destroyed them almost all:—though at the expense of nearly 120 of their own men.

The monument stands about half a mile north of the public Worcester road, and about two miles beyond the causeway in Sudbury. It is an oblong pile of rough stones, of considerable size, having a slate or grave stone standing at one end, another at the opposite end having been broken down and destroyed. It was erected by the Rev. Benjamin Wadsworth, son of the deceased hero, who in 1690 was minister of the first church in Boston, and afterwards President of Harvard College. The following is the inscription:—

Capt. Samuel Wadsworth of
Milton, his lieut. Sharp of
Brookline, capt. Brocklebank
of Rowley, with about
twenty-six other Soldiers,
fighting for the Defense of
their country, were slain
by the Indian enemy, April 18,
1676; and lye buried in this place.

INDIAN JURISPRUDENCE.

The Cherokees, it is said, have established something like a judiciary system, and introduced into their society, many of the laws and usages of civilization. Some of their savage institutions are disappearing under the ameliorating influence of moral justice. Bigamy, we understand, is done away with, and prohibited by severe penalties. As a specimen of the manner in which they dispense justice in cases of trivial import, we relate the following anecdote, said to be authentic.

An Indian assaulted another, of which regular information was made. The Judge ordered the Sheriff to bring the parties before him. The Sheriff went in pursuit of them, but returned without them. "Where are your prisoners," said the Judge. "I caught them," replied the Sheriff. "What did you do to them?" "I gave the defendant fifteen lashes." "What did you do with the plaintiff?" "Gave him fifteen too." "What with the informer, or witness?" "Why I gave him twenty-five lashes—for had he held his tongue, there would have been none of this fuss and trouble."—It would be well if all the dispensations of justice could be so equally and promptly administered.

Sav. Museum.

REVOLUTIONARY ANECDOTE.

About the year 1781, a sloop, called the Good Intent, known here by the name of "Copper Bottom," was owned by William Rotch, then of this place, and others, among whom was said to be the Hon. John Hancock. This vessel for some alleged violation of law, was seized by order of the board of war, then sit-

ting in Boston. The result of this seizure, which was made by Ichabod Plaisted, the Naval Officer then residing here, is given in the rhymes below. Plaisted, whose genius was rather opaque, had indited a clumsy letter advising the board of the transaction. Having just sense enough to perceive his own stupidity, he exhibited the letter to a Capt. Dowse, craving his aid in the construction of a more suitable epistle. Dowse took the letter, and the next day produced the following substitute; which Plaisted very gravely approved, and it was accordingly forwarded to the board.

" GENT.

Your orders respecting the sloop Good Intent I received last night and straightway I went On board of said vessel, and in the State's name Made a seizure thereof; but soon after came Some riotous persons, whose names I could mention, On board of said vessel to cause her detention—Lock'd the men I had placed as guards, in the round-house; And kept them confined there, as snug as a dormouse. They instantly made what dispatch they were able, and soon stripped the vessel of sails, rigging and cable. She'd a cargo on board, of codfish, and *inions*. And a lot of sperm oil, (in good whig's opinions)—Was destined direct for the isle of Jamaica With 2 sets of papers, lest a cruiser should take her. In this state she remains, and I wait further orders—Which I beg you to hasten, to stop new disorders. I need add no more lest time should be wasted; but remain with respect, Yours,

[Nantucket paper.]

ICHABOD PLAISTED."

Paul Jones.—By a singular accident, a large collection of original letters to this celebrated man, have been recently found in a huckster's shop in New-York. Among them are the copies of a great number of his own letters, which are completely illustrative of the character of the individual. Of the genuineness of these documents and letters there is not the least doubt, for the hand writings of such men as La Fayette, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and fifty others like them, cannot be mistaken. The papers are now in the possession of Mr. Wiley, who has submitted them to the inspection of the gentlemen of his "Den," with a view to the publication of a part. There are said to be 700 letters alone.

Anecdote.—William Penn and Thomas Story travelling together in Virginia, were caught by a shower of rain and unceremoniously sheltered themselves from it in a tobacco house; the owner of which happening to be within it, accosted them with "you have a great deal of impudence to trespass on my premises—you enter without leave—do you know who I am?" To which was answered no. "Why then I would have you to know I am a justice of the peace;" to which Thomas Story replied, "*my friend here makes such things as thee—he is the Governor of Pennsylvania.*" The great man quickly abated his haughtiness.

[COMMUNICATED.]

Meteorological Observations, from Fahrenheit's Thermometer, in the interior of the Island of Cuba, about 20 miles east of Matanzas.

☉rise. 1 to 2 cl. 9 cl. even.				☉rise. 1 to 2 cl. 9 cl. even.					
Nov.	24	72	80	74	Jan.	22	45	75	61
	25	73	83	77		23	51	82	61 S
	26	74	88	82 S.		24	56	84	71 S
	27	70	69	68 N. rain.		25	70	86	68 S
	28	65	63	62 N. rain.		26	58	77	66 S
	29	64	64	63 N. rain.		27	58	85	71
	30	65	69	68 N. rain.		28	70	82	61 shower
Dec.	1	71	76	72 } showery		29	58	72	60
	2	70	77	72 } but very		30	54	80	68
	3	73	78	73 } little		31	67	86	66 rain
	4	74	84	76 } rain.	Feb.	1	59	65	62 cloudy
	5	68	78	64 cloudy.		2	64	75	66 cloudy
	6	70	79	79 cloudy.		3	67	79	69 cloudy
	7	70	79	72		4	67	87	69 S
	8	72	78	71		5	60	83	76 S
	9	70	78	70		6	70	82	71
	10	70	78	70		7	70	82	72
	11	68	83	73		8	62	81	70
	12	69	80	74		9	61	79	72
	13	73	86	78		10	68	84	74
	14	74	87	73 [light sho'rs		11	68	84	74
	15	75	80	73 cloudy &		12	60	80	67
	16	68	70	62 N. W.		13	68	76	66
	17	49	73	64		14	68	80	67 light show.
	18	66	80	70		15	65	70	62 N W rain
	19	64	80	72		16	54	66	56 N W
	20	72	80	68		17	47	71	61
	21	70	79	68		18	59	78	68
	22	70	80	68		19	61	78	68
	23	72	86	72		20	62	81	70
	24	70	80	68 light show-		21	65	78	67 rain
	25	64	80	68 [ers.		22	58	76	60
	26	69	79	70		23	52	78	67 N W
	27	68	80	67		24	60	76	65
	28	62	80	68		25	62	78	64
	29	67	79	69		26	63	76	63 rain
	30	66	78	68		27	62	70	62
[1824]	31	68	78	67		28	58	64	54
Jan.	1	62	79	68		29	42	64	58
	2	66	79	69 light show-	March	1	60	72	62
	3	65	79	68 [ers.		2	58	75	62
	4	56	81	64		3	59	77	67
	5	58	83	68		4	60	80	71
	6	58	86	66 S.		5	68	79	72
	7	71	82	70		6	67	79	71
	8	71	82	68		7	67	79	71
	9	61	80	69		8	63	77	68
	10	68	81	69		9	62	78	72
	11	61	83	70		10	70	74	68
	12	68	76	69 light show-		11	62	74	68
	13	67	78	68 [ers.		12	62	78	78
	14	59	79	62		13	67	83	76
	15	55	82	63		14	67	83	76
	16	62	78	62		15	70	82	74
	17	53	80	60		16	68	83	76
	18	55	83	62 shower		17	69	82	74
	19	61	74	58 N W		18	67	79	74
	20	58	66	47 N W		19	72	78	72
	21	40!	69	51 N		20	68	78	72

	☉rise.	1 to 2 cl.	9 cl. even.		☉rise.	1 to 2 cl.	9 cl. even.
March 21	62	80	71	March 31	71	83	76
22	64	80	72	April 1	70	32	76 shower
23	64	81	72	2	70	76	73 shower
24	63	84	76	3	69	79	73
25	68	85	78	4	69	79	76 rain
26	67	84	75	5	71	87	77
27	68	82	74	6	73	87	81
28	67	86	72 S W	7	72	82	78
29	68	83	74	8	72	82	78
30	69	82	71				

The winds generally prevail from the N E to S E during the day—in the night they blow from the land. I have, therefore, only noticed the winds when they blew from any other quarter.

MONTHLY REGISTER OF DEATHS,

WITH CONCISE BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

In Providence, Hon. *David Howell*, LL. D. Judge of the United States for the District of Rhode Island, aged 77 years. The deceased was a native of New Jersey, but removed to this state at an early period of life. He enjoyed, for many years, a most extensive practice at our Bar, where his uncommon natural powers and legal acquirements, placed him at the head of the profession. He was formerly a member of the Continental Congress, a Judge of the Supreme Court, and Attorney General of his adopted state. He was a Professor of Law, and a Fellow of Brown University; and from its first establishment, one of the most active and efficient friends of the institution, up to the period of his decease. He was one of the commissioners for running the northern boundary line between the United States and Great Britain. He was for some years District Attorney for the Rhode Island District, and during the last fourteen years, enjoyed the office which he held at his decease. As a general and classical scholar, he was proverbially distinguished. He was remarkably well read on the subject of theology; a friend and supporter of moral and religious institutions.—*R. I. Paper.*

On the 16th August, at his residence in Lower Merion township, Montgomery county, (Penn.) the venerable *Charles Thomson*, Esq. in the 95th year of his age. He was one of the most virtuous, steadfast, energetic and useful patriots of the Revolution. Few names connected with the history of American Independence, deserve more honor than his, in reference both to his public and private merits. He enjoyed, as sole Secretary of the Revolutionary Congress, the highest confidence of that body and of the country, and the personal friendship of the best and greatest of the Americans. He stood among them like the personification of probity, firmness, and regularity. He possessed a mind naturally strong and perspicacious, which he enriched with various learning, ancient and modern, that became a constant source of gratification and employment to him in his retirement. The chief object of his old age, was to prepare himself for the future life, and his friends and relatives have every reason to believe that as a truly earnest, pious and practical Christian, he has gained the crown which he so perseveringly and worthily sought.—*National Gazette.*

It may be worthy of remark, that on the *same day* that one distinguished Revolutionary Worthy visited our new World, another eminent Revolutionary Worthy departed for the World of Spirits.

In Trenton, N. J. Gen. *James Jefferson Wilson*, 45; editor of the Trenton True American. For a number of years he occupied a seat in the Senate of the United States, and was at several different times elected a member of the Legislature of that state. A year or two since, he was appointed Post Master at Trenton, which office he continued to hold until his death.

In New-York, *Peter Lyon*, Esq. 30. It was before him, Paulding, Van Wart, and Williams, brought Maj. Andre for examination, and by whose orders he was sent to Gen. Washington, at Head Quarters.

Near Washington, Penn. *Andrew Swearingen*, Esq. 73. He was among the earliest settlers of the county, having emigrated from old Virginia, in 1772. He took a very active part in settling the disturbed state of affairs, occasioned by the inroads of the savages; and soon became a leader—was a Captain in Mackintosh's

campaign—was at Wheeling fort, when invested by the Indians; and, indeed, on almost every dangerous expedition against them, till the commencement of the Revolutionary War. He then received a Captain's commission.

In Wilton, July 25, Hon. *Abiel Wilson*, 64. Mr. Wilson was born in Andover, Mass. June 10, 1760. When about 16 years of age, he entered on the service of his country as a soldier of the revolutionary war, and continued in that service more than five years. After he was discharged from the army, he retired to the peaceful employment of a farmer, where he had an opportunity of enjoying the blessings of that independence which were won by patriotism and the valor of arms. He had contracted a fondness for the military department, and was deservedly promoted from one office to another among the N. H. militia, until he was appointed Colonel of a regiment, which office he held with much reputation for several years. He was Justice of Peace 18 years; was selectman and town clerk 17 years; was representative to the general court 9 years, and associate justice of the court of sessions four years, in which last office he died.—*Farmers' Cabinet*.

In Hopkinton, N. H. Col. *Moses Kelly*, 86. Col. Kelly was a native of Newbury, Ms. He removed into this state prior to the revolution, and commanded a regiment which was stationed on Rhode Island at the time of its investment by the British. He was then, and continued until his latest hour, an ardent friend to republican liberty. He was the first sheriff of Hillsborough county under the colonial government, and sustained that office more than thirty years. He lived to witness the frowns of adversity as well as the smiles of prosperity—to see the wife of his youth and eight of eleven children pass from before his face to the world of spirits.—*N. H. Patriot*.

In Portsmouth, N. H. Rev. *Joseph Langdon*, 66. He graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1783, and was ordained the second minister of Newington, January 9, 1788, and was dismissed in March, 1810.

In New-Haven, Vt. July 13, Rev. *Richard Hall*, Pastor of the Congregational Church in New-Ipswich, over which he was settled March 12, 1812.

In Providence, R. I. *Ebenezer B. Morse*, A. M. 40, a native of Westborough, Mass. and a graduate of Dartmouth College in 1803.

In Ashby, Mass. July 30, Rev. *Cornelius Waters*, 76. He graduated at Dartmouth College in 1774—settled the second minister at Goffstown in 1781; dismissed in 1784.

At Schooley's mountain. Rev. *Philip M. Whelpley*, 30, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in New-York.

In Stockton, N. Y. Rev. *Ebenezer Smith*, 90. He was born in October, 1734, and had been a preacher more than 70 years. There is an interesting letter written by him, in the *American Baptist Magazine*, Vol. II. new series, p. 340.

In Philadelphia, *Robert Patterson*, LL. D. 82, late President of the American Philosophical Society. Also, *Tench Coxe*, Esq. 69, formerly distinguished as a writer.

LONGEVITY, since our June Number.—In *Maine*. At Litchfield, Mr. John Cotton, 102, a revolutionary pensioner;—at Portland, Mrs. Lydia M. Blake, 107;—at Boothbay, Mrs. Eliza Carlisle, 94;—at Eden, Mr. Henry Knowles, 98;—at Portland, Mrs. Sarah Price, 94, long an eminent School-mistress.

In *New-Hampshire*. At Plainfield, Mrs. Elizabeth Adams, 93;—at Nelson, June 3, Mr. John Buxton, 95 years, 6 months, a soldier of the French war, and of the revolution;—at Keene, June 22, Widow Anna Draper, 90;—at Pelham, Mr. Asa Carlton, 95;—at Amherst, August 3, Widow Joanna Woolson, 96, the oldest person in that town. Her husband died last year at 93;—at Concord, Mrs. Potter, wife of Mr. Richard Potter, 90;—at Plymouth, August 14, Mr. James Hazeltine, 90;—at Milton, July 16, Mr. John Twombly, 97.

In *Massachusetts*. At West Newbury, Mr. Samuel Jaques, 96;—at Boston, Deborah Sewall, 106, a woman of color; at Dracut, Widow Deborah Coburn, 96;—at Sturbridge, Widow Belah Dunton, 91;—at Hingham, Widow Hannah Hodges, 95;—at Hanson, Widow Lydia Bourne, 91.

In *Vermont*. At Hartland, Mr. Thomas Weeden, 95.

In Davidson Co. N. C. Mr. Barnet Wier, 120, a native of Germany. In Waterford, Mrs. Rebecca Dudley, 92. In Easthampton, Widow Hannah Jones, 93. In Pittsburgh, Penn. Mrs. Jannet S. Gilbreath, 98. In Philadelphia, Mrs. Mary Fox, 99 years, 6 months, 14 days. In Cabell Co. Va. April 23, Mr. Jeremiah Ward, 118, a native of Virginia. In Warren, R. I. Mr. John Trott, 91. In Maryland, Mr. Underwood Guyton, 90. In Fairfield district, S. C. Charles D. Bradford Esq. 90. In Stockton, N. Y. Rev. Ebenezer Smith, 90. In Pennsylvania, Hon. Charles Thompson, 95, (see above.) In North Providence, R. I. Capt. John H. Currier, 90.

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